

*Sub C1*

21. (New) In an inorganic binder-based construction adhesive of the cementitious or cement-free type in which an aqueous polymer dispersion or redispersible polymer powder is added, the improvement comprising adding as at least a portion of said aqueous polymer dispersion or redispersible polymer powder, a polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization in the presence of a protective colloid, said polymer prepared from monomers comprising at least one vinyl ester monomer and from 0.2 to 1.5 weight percent, based on the total weight of all monomers, of an auxiliary monomer having a water solubility higher than vinyl acetate.

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22. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said auxiliary monomer is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.0 weight percent.

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23. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein at least one auxiliary monomer is selected from the group consisting of ethyleneically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids, ethyleneically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids and anhydrides thereof, ethylenically unsaturated carboxamides, ethylenically unsaturated carbonitriles, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, and salts of the acid monomers of this group.

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24. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21, wherein at least one auxiliary monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, acrylamide, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, maleic anhydride, acrylamidoglycolic acid, and itaconic acid.

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25. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21, wherein said monomers further comprise at least one further monomer or monomer mixture selected from the group consisting of ethylene, ethylene and fumaric acid, ethylene and maleic acid diesters, ethylene and vinyl chloride, acrylic acid esters, and ethylene and acrylic acid esters.

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26. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said at least one vinyl ester monomer comprises vinyl acetate.

27. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said at least one vinyl ester monomer comprises a mixture of vinyl acetate and a vinyl ester other than vinyl acetate.

28. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21, wherein said protective colloid comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols and fully hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols.

29. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said protective colloid comprises at least one polyvinyl alcohol selected from the group consisting of partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity in a 4% by weight aqueous solution of from 1 to 30 mPas, and partially hydrolyzed, hydrophobically modified polyvinyl alcohols having a degree of hydrolysis of from 80 to 95 mol% and a Höppler viscosity in 4% by weight aqueous solution of from 1 to 30 mPas.

30. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization is prepared from monomers comprising vinyl acetate, ethylene, and from 0.5 to 1.0 weight percent of at least one auxiliary monomer.

31. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21, which is a cementitious adhesive.

32. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 which is a cement-free adhesive.

33. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 32 wherein said adhesive comprises gypsum as an inorganic binder.

34. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 which is selected from the group consisting of exterior insulation system adhesives, tile adhesives, mortar, and concrete.

35. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 21 wherein said polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization is in the form of a redispersible polymer powder.

36. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 35 which is in the form of a dry mix.

37. (New) A process for improving the tensile strength of a set cementitious or cement-free, inorganic binder-based construction adhesive, the improvement comprising incorporating into a settable cementitious or cement free construction adhesive a protective colloid stabilized aqueous polymer dispersion or redispersible polymer powder prepared therefrom, the polymer of said aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by copolymerizing monomers comprising a vinyl ester monomer, and from 0.2 to 1.5 weight percent based on the weight of all monomers of at least one auxiliary monomer having a water solubility greater than vinyl acetate.

38. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein said monomers comprise vinyl acetate, ethylene, and at least one auxiliary monomer in an amount of from 0.5 to 1.0 weight percent.

39. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein at least one auxiliary monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, acrylamide, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, maleic anhydride, acrylamidoglycolic acid, and itaconic acid.

40. (New) The construction adhesive of claim 1 which is an exterior insulation system adhesive.